

Base tax center assists more than 3,500

By Capt. Jennifer Dickey
Base tax officer

So far this year, the tax center staff and volunteers have assisted more than 3,500 people and processed more than 1,000 electronic filings and more than 131 paper returns.

"We are working to make people's filing as simple and painless as possible," said Diane Butler, tax center specialist. "We offer appointments for electronic filing and basic tax assistance throughout the day, but also offer a walk-in service for people filing 1040EZ and 1040A forms."

Butler recommends that people call the center to determine the waiting time before coming in for walk-in service. In addition, she recommends that everyone first contact their unit tax advisor before making an appointment or calling the center for tax assistance.

"If you only have a couple of quick questions, consulting your squadron tax advisor can save you time," said Butler. "If your tax advisor can't help you, they'll direct you to the center, but at least you'll know before coming in what questions to ask."

Also, a few tax advisors at RAF Feltwell, 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 48th Dental Squadron, 48th Mission Support Squadron and 48th Component Repair Squadron offer electronic filing at their squadron.

People who wish to file returns electronically should bring the following documents and information to the tax center: W-2s,



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

SrA. Andy Blake (right) helps TSgt. Chris Toale file an electronic return at the base tax center.

1099s, bank routing and account numbers, and the Social Security numbers or individual taxpayer identification numbers for all people being claimed as exemptions. People who are filing joint returns must be present to sign all applicable forms.

The tax center has also developed a handout that provides guidance on filing requirements for child-care providers. The child-care handout, and federal and state tax forms are available at the tax center.

The base tax center is a free service,

staffed almost entirely by volunteers. While most volunteers can provide assistance on individual federal income returns, they are not trained to handle tax matters for businesses, partnerships, trusts or estates and other complex tax matters.

For more information, call TSgt. Debra Gallegos or Butler at Ext. 1805. Center hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays. Walk-ins are from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The tax center is located in Bldg. 905, between the base library and Electric Avenue.

TRICARE Prime

Not enrolling could limit health care

People not enrolled into TRICARE Prime by May will only have access to the 48th Medical Group on a space-available basis.

TRICARE Prime is the health-care option that provides the most comprehensive health-care benefits at the lowest cost. The feature of the prime program is guaranteed access to care in a timely manner at a military treatment facility or through a civilian provider network. Those who enroll in the prime program are assigned to a primary-care manager team that acts as a "family doctor" and sees their patients first for health-care needs.

"Active-duty members are automatically enrolled into TRICARE Prime, but dependents must choose to do so," said Capt. Rachel Turner, TRICARE services director. "To enroll in TRICARE Prime, members must stop by the TRICARE service center in the main hospital. Enrollment only takes a few minutes and the staff can answer any questions about the program. To enroll, members must have their family members' Social Security Numbers and a copy of their orders assigning them to RAF Lakenheath."

For more information about TRICARE, stop by the service center or call the center staff at Ext. 6210.

Don't bin 'em, save those cans

By SSgt. Dave Berdis
Recycling center manager

Recycling aluminum cans is one way for people to contribute to the wing recycling program.

They're light enough to carry and people don't need fancy storage containers to store them. All that's needed is a bag and a little mindfulness.

Did you know it's much cheaper to make cans out of recycled material than it is to make them out of new metal? For example, recycling uses 95 percent less energy than is needed to make cans from scratch. That means 20 cans can be made out of recycled material with the same energy it takes to make one can out of new material. In the United States, people throw

away enough aluminum in three months to rebuild the country's entire commercial air fleet.

Recycling cans also cuts related air pollution, like sulfur dioxides, by 95 percent.

So help the wing do its share. People with aluminum cans or any other recyclable materials can drop them off in the recycling bins at the Liberty Wing Recycling Center in Bldg. 1140, near the self-help store, or at the collection point near the laundry mat.

For more information about the wing recycling program, call the environmental management flight at Ext. 3989 or the Liberty Wing Recycling Center at Ext. 6588.